AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Recommendations of the Committee relate to the revision of the pay scales of the scientists working in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research system and other connected matters. The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Estimated rice production during current year

111. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of rice during the current year;

(b) whether there is likely to be any shortfall in rice production; if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import rice to meet the shortage; and

(d) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in some of the principal rice producing States as well as floods in some States in the Eastern region, production of rice during 1987-88 is expected to decline. Firm estimates of rice production are not yet due from the States and as such, it is too early to assess the shortfall in rice production.

(c) and (d) Food situation in the country is constantly under review and the Government keeps open the option to import rice, as and when considered necessary.

Revenue earned through Advertisements in Doordarshan

112. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of revenue earned by the Doordarshan through advertisement so far during the current year; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Doordarshan earned a gross revenue of Rs. 66.86 crores during the period April to September, 1987 through advertisements and sponsored programmes.

(b) The steps taken/being taken to increase the revenue include;

(i) Revision of rate structure of commercial telecast with effect from 1st March, 1987;

(ii) Special sales promotion efforts to book ads for telecast along with the coverage of Reliance Cup 1987;

(iii) Augmentation of staff and facilities at Doordarshan Commercial Service Headquarters and at Kendras for sales promotion.

Steel Prices

113. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is pressing for a fresh price hike of steel;

(b) whether joint Plant Committee has recommended 12.5 per cent increase in steel price and the SAIL Chairman is justifying the same;

(c) whether steel price in India is 250 per cent higher as compared to international price;